

Week Ending Friday, May 28, 2004

**Proclamation 7789—National Maritime Day, 2004**

*May 21, 2004*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

National Maritime Day provides an opportunity to recognize the men and women of the United States Merchant Marine and their contributions to our national security and economic strength.

Since they first offered their ships and services to assist the Continental Navy in our struggle for independence, to their distinguished service in World War II, merchant mariners have courageously sacrificed to protect our country and defend our freedoms. In 1936, America recognized the contributions of these patriots and established the U.S. Merchant Marine “as a naval or military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency.” Today, merchant mariners are delivering essential supplies and equipment to our troops in Iraq and bravely serving the cause of liberty. They continue to play an important role in our Nation’s efforts to advance democracy, peace, and freedom around the world, and we are grateful for their dedication.

Merchant mariners also contribute significantly to the U.S. maritime transportation system. More than 95 percent of non-North American trade enters our country through our seaports. These ports handle more than \$740 billion and 2 billion tons of domestic and international freight each year. Those in the maritime industry, including merchant mariners, enhance waterborne commerce and help promote America’s economic growth.

Today, we honor the courage, determination, and service of our Nation’s merchant mariners and remember the many who have given their lives in defense of our country.

Their work reflects the patriotism and devotion to duty that make America great.

In recognition of the importance of the U.S. Merchant Marine, the Congress, by joint resolution approved on May 20, 1933, as amended, has designated May 22 of each year as “National Maritime Day,” and has authorized and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its appropriate observance.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2004, as National Maritime Day. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate this observance and to display the flag of the United States at their homes and in their communities. I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 25, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 26. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7790—National Safe Boating Week, 2004**

*May 21, 2004*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Our Nation’s many waterways give millions of boating enthusiasts the opportunity to

enjoy the outdoors and spend time with family and friends. With nearly 13 million recreational boats on our oceans, lakes, and rivers, boating is a popular pastime. However, far too many Americans are hurt or killed each year in boating accidents that are largely preventable.

Each year, of the thousands of boating accidents that occur, many are caused by operators who are careless, reckless, or inexperienced. In most cases, boat operators had received no safety instruction, and many of those who died could have been saved if they had worn life jackets. During National Safe Boating week, we seek to raise awareness to improve safety and reduce accidents on our Nation's waters.

Across the Nation, many groups are working to teach recreational boaters how they can make boating safer through the 2004 North American Safe Boating Campaign. These include the U.S. Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the National Safe Boating Council, and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. These groups recommend that boaters get boat safety checks, ensure that boats are properly maintained, take safe boating classes, be aware of homeland security issues, always wear a life jacket, and never operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs. By learning about boating safety and taking some simple precautions, recreational boaters can reduce the risk of accidents and ensure that they enjoy their time on the water responsibly.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 131), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the 7-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22 through May 28, 2004, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to join in observing this occasion. I also urge all boaters to learn more about safe boating practices, always wear life

jackets, and take advantage of boating safety programs throughout the year.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

**George W. Bush**

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## **The President's Radio Address**

*May 22, 2004*

Good morning. This week brought further evidence that across America, more citizens are finding jobs. The Department of Labor reported State-by-State job results, and these figures show that America's jobs engine is running strong.

Nationally, we gained 288,000 new jobs in April, and the Nation has added more than 1.1 million new jobs since last August. The unemployment rate has fallen steadily and now stands at 5.6 percent, down from 6.3 percent last June and lower than the average unemployment rate of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

In April, the biggest job gaining States were Florida, North Carolina, Missouri, and Michigan. Forty-five States out of 50 added new workers. In some States, job creation had been strong for many months. Florida has gained more than a quarter million new jobs since December 2001. In Nevada, 90,000 new jobs have been created since January of 2002, and Missouri has added 57,000 jobs since last summer.

States that have trailed in job growth are now making progress. Wisconsin and Ohio have each added more than 30,000 new jobs this year. New Hampshire gained 2,700 new jobs in April alone. And in Oregon, the unemployment rate has fallen from a high of 8.7 percent last summer down to 6.7 percent in April as the State has added 29,000 new jobs.